

Status: Ready To File

Western Massachusetts Electric Company
Docket No. DTE 04-106

Information Request DTE-01
Dated: 12/02/2004
Q- DTE1-021
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Witness: Richard A. Soderman
Request from: Department of Telecommunications and Energy

Question:

Refer to the Settlement Agreement at 5, Article VIII. Please explain the phrase, "to a level proportionate with that currently in place for WMECo's affiliate, The Connecticut Light & Power Company." As part of this response, please provide the number of customers presently participating in The Connecticut Light and Power Company's low-income assistance program.

Response:

The phrase "to a level proportionate with that currently in place for WMECO's affiliate, The Connecticut Light & Power Company" means that WMECO anticipates approximately the same percentage of seriously delinquent Massachusetts hardship customers will participate in the NUSart program compared to the percentage of seriously delinquent (i. e., customers that are delinquent for more than three billing periods) Connecticut hardship customers that participate in CL&P's NUSart program.

WMECO currently has approximately 3,800 hardship customers that have been delinquent for over 3 periods. CL&P has 10,000 customers with the same period of delinquency. The ratio is 0.38.

During the course of the past few years, NUSTART participation in Connecticut has been in the range of 3,000 - 5,500. By applying the hardship ratio (0.38), WMECO projects participation in the range of 1,000 - 2,000 customers for a mature program.